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Viewing cable 07BERN881, FM CALMY-REY "TAKES NOTE" OF USG CONCERNS \

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- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07BERN881**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
07BERN881	2007-09-11 09:44	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy Bern

Appears in these articles:

http://www.letemps.ch/swiss_papers

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VZCZCXRO4549
OO RUEHRG
DE RUEHSW #0881/01 2540944
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4460
INFO RUCNMEU/EU INTEREST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 0018
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY 0010
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0120
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 0300
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0031
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 0777
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0553
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 1222
RUEHBRC/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0133
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 0056
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0062
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0858
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0125
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0038
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0937
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0038
RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 0011
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 0313
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0383
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 0261
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0182
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0120
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 0099
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0108
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 0283
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 0185
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0085
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0073
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0477
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0490
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0661
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0028
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2758
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0142
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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DEPT FOR P (SGUHA), E, ISN/RA (KKESSLER), IO/T \
(HVONBEHREN), AND EUR/AGS (YSAINT-ANDRE) \

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/10/2027 \

TAGS: [MNUC](#) [KNNP](#) [ETTC](#) [IR](#) [SZ](#)

SUBJECT: FM CALMY-REY "TAKES NOTE" OF USG CONCERNS \
REGARDING IRAN/IAEA AND IRAN/EGL \

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REF: A. STATE 124823 \

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[1](#)B. GUHA-CARTER E-MAIL (07SEP07) \

[1](#)C. BERN 860 \

[1](#)D. STATE 123352 \

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Classified By: Charg d'Affaires a.i. Leigh Carter; reasons 1.4(b) and (\
d). \

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SUMMARY \

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[1](#)1. (S) Per instructions in reftel A, CDA met FM Calmy-Rey on \
the evening of September 7 to discuss USG concerns regarding \
the handling of the Iran case at the September 10-14 IAEA \
Board of Governors (BOG) meeting (reftels C/D). As requested \
in ref B, CDA also took the opportunity to raise USG \
objections to a pending natural gas deal between Swiss firm \
EGL and Iran. Calmy-Rey replied that Switzerland does not, \
as a general rule, discuss the Iran "dossier" in public, \
given its broader commitments and roles in dealing with Iran \
(e.g., as "protecting power" for the USG). Regarding the EGL \
natural gas deal issue, she remarked that EGL is a private \
company, and the Iran deal is very important to it. However, \
she went on to say that she takes note of USG concerns, \
particularly with regard to the timing of the deal in the \
broader political context. Throughout the meeting, Calmy-Rey \
was cordial but succinct and generally non-committal in her \
reaction to our messages. (Meeting Participants: Poloff \
accompanied CDA as notetaker. FM Calmy-Rey, also \
concurrently the Swiss Federal President, was joined by \
Yvonne Baumann, Head of the MFA's Western Hemisphere \
Division, and by Jean-Daniel Praz, Deputy Head of the MFA's \
Nonproliferation and Arms Control Division.) End summary. \

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IRAN/IAEA \

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2. (S) CDA delivered the message in ref tel A, noting that \ Switzerland presumably would be elected to the IAEA Board of \ Governors (BOG) later this month, and emphasizing the \ importance of the international community speaking with one \ voice in insisting that Iran meet its obligations on both the \ IAEA and UNSC tracks. Calmy-Rey "took note" of USG concerns \ and said that she would study the matter. She commented that \ Switzerland was not yet on the BOG, so would not be in a \ position to make a statement at the September 10-14 BOG \ meeting. Poloff observed that public statements by \

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like-minded states reiterating Iran's obligations would be \ useful, even outside of the context of the BOG. Calmy-Rey \ replied that Switzerland does not, as a general rule, discuss \ the Iran "dossier" in public, given its broader commitments \ and roles in dealing with Iran (e.g., as "protecting power" \ for the USG). \

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IRAN/EGL Gas Deal \

3. (S) CDA underlined the points in ref B, observing that EGL \ moving ahead with the Iran natural gas deal would have a \ severe negative effect on the international community's \ efforts to keep the pressure on Tehran to achieve a \ diplomatic solution. Calmy-Rey remarked that EGL is a \ private company, and the Iran deal is very important to it. \ However, she went on to say that she takes note of USG \ concerns, particularly with regard to the timing of the deal \ in the broader political context. She concluded by saying \ that the GOS is "preoccupied" with the matter and would \ review USG concerns. \

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COMMENT \

4. (C) Calmy-Rey agreed to the Friday evening meeting in \ response to our request for an appointment before September \ 10 (ref tel A). She was cordial but succinct and generally \ non-committal in her reaction to our messages. Post will \ continue to reiterate our concerns on these matters at \ appropriate opportunities with other Swiss officials. \ CARTER \

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E.O. 12958: N/A \

TAGS: MNUC KNNP ETTC IR SZ

SUBJECT: REGIONAL GOVERNORS - WHO ARE THEY? \

1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet. \

2. (SBU) Summary: Following a series of scandals \ involving the misuse of public funds by newly elected \ local officials, the Georgian Parliament recently passed \ two laws that strengthen the powers of regional Governors, \ who are appointed by the President, to exercise \ "state supervision" and ensure compliance of local \ self-government bodies with the "interests, goals and \ policy" of the state. Increasing the authority of the \ Governors may help with the formulation and \ subsequent implementation of economic development of \ Georgia's undeveloped regions. However, this will need \ to be done carefully as some may claim that these new \ powers are counter to the goal of decentralizing power \ from federal to local structures. This cable \ contains a brief summary of the current regional \ Governors of Georgia, whose personalities - some of \ which tend toward that of a local prince, \ rather than an institutional manager of local \

self-governance - may prove decisive in the \
development of Georgia's regions. End Summary. \

Promising steps towards local self-government \

13. (U) The ratification of the European Charter on Local \
Self-governance and subsequent adoption of the Law on Local \
Self-governance by the Georgian parliament in 2005 created \
the political and legal environment required for the \
development of full-fledged self-government institutions. \
The new legislation envisaged the termination of the \
existing subordination of local bodies to the central \
authorities, primarily through ensuring the separation \
of powers of state and local governments, bolstering \
the independence of local government bodies, and encouraging \
the participation of citizens in the exercise of \
self-governance. This marked an entirely new approach \
to local governance in the top-down world of the former \
Soviet Union. The legislation and subsequent local \
elections in 2006 were assessed by experts as the most \
promising advance towards local self-governance in \
Georgian history. \

Links to the non-transparent past \

14. (U) According to the new legislation, the main entities \
of local self-government are, "a settlement (a self-governing \
city) or an amalgamation of settlements (municipality), \
which have local self-government representative and \
executive bodies." The law does not provide for the \
institution of the President's Representative in the \
regions or a Regional Governor, though it stipulates \
state supervision over local self-government bodies, which \
has been in practice since the Shevardnadze era. At that \
time, the rationale for the state supervision by the \
President's Representative was the difficult period \
of transition towards democracy, which necessitated \
presence of a "strong presidential hand" in the regions. \
Shevardnadze also established a Governor's Special Fund \
to "implement targeted programs of regional development." \
Lacking transparency, this fund has been invalidated \
by the current government, though the institution of the \
Representative is being retained. Currently, Georgia \
has nine regions with respective entities of locally \
elected governments. However, in addition, each region \
is also governed by the superimposed authority of \
the President's Representative. \

Links to the unclear future \

15. (U) In order to address the existing legislative \
uncertainties surrounding the President's Representative, \
Georgian Parliament recently adopted two laws: Amendments \
to the Law on Structure, Authority and the Rule of Activity \
of the Government of Georgia and Law on State Supervision \
over the Activities of Local Self-government \
Bodies. The laws provide for the institution of President's \
Representative/Governor who "shall be the representative \
of the President and the Government of Georgia in \
territorial units". As stipulated by the legislation, \
the Governor, appointed and dismissed by the President, \
shall control implementation of the laws of Georgia in \
territorial units, implement regional programs of \
social-economic development, provide recommendations on \
the suspension or termination of local council activities, \
under circumstances threatening to the sovereignty of \

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the country, or constitutional authority of state \
bodies. Most importantly, Governors shall exercise \
"state supervision" to ensure "the legality and \
expediency of the activities of local self-government \
bodies and officials", and "legal supervision" \
to ensure "compliance of the normative acts issued \
by local self-government bodies and officials with \
Georgian legislation." Beyond coordinating regional \
interests, goals and policy with those determined by \
the federal state, Governors shall also administer state \
budget resources in accordance "with public interests." \

16. (U) Critics of the legislation fear that it will bestow \
too much authority to regional governors, who are not \
popularly elected and report directly to the president. \
Furthermore, opponents believe the proposed laws will \
provide little oversight of the regional administrators \
from the federal government, and even fewer checks and \
balances from the local government institutions. Supporters \
contend that the locally elected officials, most of whom \
grew up and prospered in the era of rampant corruption of the \

Shevardnadze period, need additional oversight in order \
to ensure that federal funds given to local authorities \
are spent on constituent needs. Indeed, the ruling party \
forced a group of local officials to resign after they \
spent most of the local funds from the poor area of \
Kutaisi on new Mercedes vehicles and the refurbishment of \
their offices. \

Personalities Gallery \

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17. (SBU) At present, the governors who will be given the \
above leverages to exercise the presidential power in the \
regions are the following: \

Giorgi Natsvlishvili - Kakheti region \

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Kakheti - a wine region of Georgia - comprises eight \
districts with the total population of approximately 407,182. \
Kakheti borders on Azerbaijan and North Caucasus and \
provides shelter to a sizable community of refugees from \
Chechnya. Gia Natsvlishvili was appointed Governor of Kakheti \
region on November 27, 2006. \

Natsvlishvili was born on July 4, 1963, in Tbilisi. \
In 1985, he graduated from the Technical University of \
Georgia faculty of hydro-technical facilities. Natsvlishvili \
also graduated from the secondary faculty with a major in \
English technical translation. In 1997, he was awarded \
a PhD in technical science, and in 2003 the rank \
of Doctor. He is a member of the International Association \
of Hydraulic Specialists, author of 30 scientific papers, a \
member of the International Association of American \
Scientists "Sigma XI". From 1988 to 2003, Natsvlishvili \
headed various businesses. \

From 1987, Natsvlishvili became involved in the National \
Liberation Movement and was one of the founders of the \
Christian-Democratic Union of Georgia. In 1992, he took \
part in the military actions in Abkhazia and is a veteran of \
the Abkhazian war. He participated actively in the \
foundation of the National Movement and was its Executive \
Secretary until 2004. In 2004, Natsvlishvili became member \

SIPDIS \
of the Tbilisi Sakrebulo, and was a Member of Georgian \
Parliament from April 22, 2004, as the Deputy Chairman of \
the Parliamentary Committee on Branch Economy and Economic \
Reforms. \

According to a local NGO source, the majority of Kakheti \
residents think very highly of Natsvlishvili as a young \
and energetic leader, and he has a positive reputation \
among civil society actors in Kakheti. \

Vasil Maghlaperidze - Mtskheta- Mtianeti \

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Mtskheta- Mtianeti is rich in hydro-resources and \
forest parks, and has good prospects for livestock, grain \
harvesting and beer production. The region of Georgia's \
ancient capital Mtskheta also has a significant \
potential for tourism development. It comprises \
five districts with the total population of \
approximately 125,443. Vasil Maghlaperidze was \
appointed Governor of Mtskheta- Mtianeti on March 1, 2005. \

Vasil Maghlaperidze was born in Tbilisi, on September 5, 1958. \
In 1980, he graduated from the Tbilisi State University \

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faculty of philology. In 1989, Maghlaperidze was awarded a \
PhD in philology. From 1988, he worked as a researcher \
at the Tbilisi State University department of \
ancient Georgian literature, and from 1984 to 1999 \
was a teacher of Georgian language and literature at a \
secondary school in Tbilisi. In 1999, and again in \
2004, Maghlaperidze was elected as a member of Parliament. \
In 2004, he was elected Chairman of the Georgian \
Parliament's temporary Commission on restoration of \
territorial integrity of Georgia. \

Maghlaperidze is generally perceived as an obedient and \
decent public servant who will neither do any damage, nor \
be proactive to achieve independent results. \

Mikheil Kareli - Shida Kartli \

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Shida Kartli has a strong potential for fruit and vegetable \
processing industry development. The region actually \

encompasses the conflict zone in South Ossetia and comprises \
four districts under Georgian jurisdiction, with a total \
population of approximately 314,039. Mikheil Kareli was \
appointed Governor of Shida Kartli in January 2004. \

Kareli was born on September 3, 1975, in the city of \
Gori. He graduated from the Gori State Economic \
Institute's economic records faculty with a major in \
accounting and economic analysis. He also graduated \
from the Tbilisi State University faculty of law, \
majoring in jurisprudence, and was awarded the \
qualification of a lawyer. Kareli worked from 1998 \
to 2001 as the Sakrebulo Chairman of the Tkviavi \
community of Gori district. Between 2002 and 2003, \
he was the Board Chairman of the NGO "Union of Fighting \
Against Corruption". From 2003 to 2004, Kareli was the \
executive secretary of the Gori branch of the United \
National Movement. \

Kareli, said to be protigi of the former Minister of \
Defense Irakli Okruashvili, is also known for his \
autocratic ways of management. Some believe he rules as \
a prince of a fiefdom, rather than as a high executive. \
However, his position, which is owed to an earlier promotion \
by Okruashvili, has become quite precarious recently. \

Zurab Melikishvili - Kvemo Kartli \
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Kvemo Kartli borders Armenia and Azerbaijan and \
comprises a major portion of Georgia's ethnic Azeri Muslim \
population. The region is rich in arable land and \
pastures for livestock breeding. It consists of six districts \
with the total population of approximately 497,530. \
Zurab Melikishvili was appointed Governor of Kvemo Kartli \
in December 2004. \

Melikishvili was born on February 15, 1971, in Tbilisi. \
In 1993, Melikishvili graduated from the Javakhishvili \
Tbilisi State University faculty of chemistry, and later \
in 1997 from the faculty of jurisprudence of the \
Nutsubidze Institute "Ritorika". Between 1993 and \
1996, Melikishvili worked as the chairman of the \
Georgian International Red Cross Society organization \
in Vake district; vice-president of the youth organization \
of the IRCS. From 1999 to 2000, he served as an \
invited specialist at the Georgian Parliament. Between \
2000 and 2001, Melikishvili worked at the Ministry of \
Justice of Georgia, Head of the Minister's office. \
Melikishvili was one of the founders of National \
Movement, as a coordinator of organizational issues. \
From December 2003 to January 2004, Melikishvili was \
Governor of Kvemo Kartli. In early 2004, he was \
appointed First Deputy Head of the President's Office, \
and served later that year as the State Minister on Regional \
Issues. \

Melikishvili, though a good "apparatchik", makes very \
rare public appearances and his role in the region is \
nearly invisible. \

Aaki Bobokhidze -Imereti \
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Imereti is rich in coal, manganese, limestone, mineral \
waters and hydro resources. The region of Georgia's \
second largest city of Kutaisi comprises eleven districts \
with the total population of approximately 699,666. \
Akaki Bobokhidze was appointed Governor of Imereti in \

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November 2006. \

Bobokhidze was born on September 14, 1964, in the village \
Gord, Khoni district. In 1986, he graduated from the \
Tbilisi Javakhishvili State University faculty of mechanics \
and mathematics. From 1986 to 1990, Bobokhidze worked at \
the Kutaisi Polytechnics Institute. In 1990, \
Bobokhidze became a member of the Supreme Council \
of Georgia, and later in 1992, a member of the State Council \
of Georgia. From 1992 to 1995, he served in the Georgian \
Parliament. Between 1998 and 2001, Bobokhidze was the \
Ombudsman's Trustee on Political Issues. From 2001 \
to 2004, Bobokhidze served a second term in Parliament. \
In 2005, he was appointed Governor of Imereti. One year \
later, he resigned from the post to become Head of the \
National Guard Department. On November 10, 2006, he was \
re-appointed Governor of Imereti. \

At various times, Bobokhidze was a member of both the \
Republican Party and People's Party, finally joining \
the National Movement later in his career. His \

resignation from the Governor's position stemmed from a scandal involving Bobokhidze's assault of a journalist following a television interview. The episode further damaged Bobokhidze's public reputation, which was already held in low esteem due to endeavors seen as opportunistic and self-serving.

Giorgi Khachidze - Samtskhe-Javakheti

Samtskhe-Javakheti borders Turkey and Armenia and comprises the largest portion of Georgia's ethnic Armenians. The region has a strong potential for meat and dairy-products development. It consists of six districts with the total population of approximately 207,598. Giorgi Khachidze was appointed governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti in March 2005.

Khachidze was born on February 9, 1974. In 1997, Khachidze graduated from the Tbilisi State University, majoring in biology and journalism. Between 1994 and 2000, he worked for state-run Channels I and II on Georgian Television, as well as for the television companies "Ibervizia", "Rustavi-2", "202". During this time, Khachidze also worked in the press-service of the Ministry of Defense, as well as for radio station "105", radio "Rezonansi", and newspaper "Rezonansi". In November 2002, he founded the Khashuri office of the "United Democrats" party. From November 2003 to March 2004, he was the Deputy Gamgebeli of Khashuri rayon. From March to October, 2004, he was a Member of Georgian Parliament, elected through National Movement party lists. From October, 2004 to March, 2005 he was appointed Governor in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region.

Khachidze was also a relatively popular pop-singer and managed to transfer his personable qualities to his managerial work as well. Khachidze is quite liked by the local NGO community, which stresses his regular work with civil society organizations and his focus on concrete achievements. Khachidze's strongest asset is said to be his ability to work with people, despite their religion or ethnicity.

Zaza Gorozia - Samegrelo and Upper Svaneti

Samegrelo and Upper Svaneti border on the conflict zone in Abkhazia, and is presently home to the largest share of Georgia's IDPs from Abkhazia. The region is rich in hydro-resources, non-ferrous metals, and arable land for citrus cultivation. It comprises eight districts, including the industrial port town of Poti, with the total population of approximately 466,100. Zaza Gorozia was appointed Governor of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti in July 2005.

Gorozia was born in Martvili district, Samegrelo on February 11, 1975. In 1999, he graduated from the Medical Academy of Tbilisi, and later continued post-graduate studies with the major in healthcare management. From 2000 to 2001, Gorozia worked as an intern at the healthcare department of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. In 2003, Gorozia served on the Central Elections Commission. From 2003 to 2005, he was appointed as Deputy, and later promoted as Head of the Tbilisi City Hall's Healthcare and Social Services. He is currently member of

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the United National Movement.

Gorozia is seen by many not only as a good party functionary, but also as a good manager enthusiastic about local projects and capable of delivering results. At the same time, Gorozia still has to overcome another existing perception which holds him as a "cocksure" young guy, "having his fling" while he is still the ruler of Samegrelo region.

Mikheil Svimonishvili - Guria

Guria holds strong potential for agricultural development of tea, citrus, hazel nuts, and mineral water. The region comprises three districts with the total population of approximately 143,357. Mikheil Svimonishvili was appointed Governor of Guria in November 2006.

Svimonishvili was born on April 7, 1976, in Tbilisi. In 1993, Svimonishvili attended technical college of

the German city of Bruchsal, majoring in trade economy, \
and later pursued post-graduate studies at the Ivane \
Javakhishvili State University of Tbilisi, with \
the major in business-information technology. Between \
1997 and 1999, he studied in Switzerland at the economic \
faculty of the Zurich University. In 1998, he took a \
one-year qualification improvement course at the Swiss \
Banking School. In 1997, together with Swiss \
partners, Svimonishvili founded the company "Tskali \
Margebeli", Ltd., which produces the mineral water \
Nabeghlavi. At the same time, he is a founder of the \
Ltd. "Alami" and "Ali Georgian Motors". Until December \
2004, he worked as the Head of the Tbilisi City Hall \
Service of city planning. On December 17, 2004, he \
was appointed the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia. \

Svimonishvili is not perceived as a person wholeheartedly \
dedicated to the region, but rather as a temporary "fixture" \
who was assigned to this position against his will and \
who would be looking for the first feasible opportunity \
to turn a "new leaf" in his career. \

Otar Siradze - Racha-Lechkhumi and Lower Svaneti \

Racha-Lechkhumi and Lower Svaneti holds good prospects \
for tourism and recreational development. Its rich \
mineral water resources holds strong potential for \
the bottled water industry. It comprises four districts \
with the total population of approximately 50,969. \
Otar Siradze was appointed Governor of Racha-Lechkhumi \
and Lower Svaneti in March, 2005. \

Siradze was born in 1975 in the town of Ambrolauri, \
Racha region. In 1997, he graduated from the Humanities \
Institute of Georgia with the qualification of the manager \
of economic relations. He later continued post-graduate \
studies in economics at the State University of Tbilisi. \
Between 1995 and 2002, Siradze worked as the Deputy \
Director of company Laba, Ltd., and as Assistant Head \
of the Office of the Minister of State Property Management. \
From 2003 to 2004, he was the Head of the Office of the \
Agency of Enterprise Management, a public legal entity. \
In 2005, Siradze was appointed the Deputy Head of the \
Georgian Government's Department on Regional Policy. \

Siradze is probably the least known Governor of the \
regions of Georgia, apparently shunning any public \
appearances. Racha-Lechkhumi and Lower Svaneti, one of \
the most beautiful parts of Georgia, would benefit \
tremendously from having energetic leadership focused on \
intensive road development and local tourism/recreation \
development projects. \

Comment \

18. (SBU) Comment: Strengthening of the institution of \
regional governors & unelected officials appointed by \
and directly subordinate to the president may help with the \
development and subsequent implementation of comprehensive \
strategies for the economic development of Georgia's \
regions. It is also a way to provide oversight over the \
fledgling and inexperienced (at least in democracy) local \
officials. Based on a review of qualifications, background, \
and performance in current and previous positions, there \
is some question as to whether the actual incumbents can \

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be expected to perform their mandates effectively. \
It will be important that implementation of these laws is \
done in a way which allows for the continued \
decentralization of federal structures, empowerment of \
locally elected officials, and deferral of decisions to \
the local level. We will actively encourage such an approach. \
End \
comment. \
TEFFT \